

Message Text

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SUBJECT:EXPANSION OF US-USSR FULBRIGHT LECTURER EXCHANGE

1. THE DEPARTMENT PROPOSES, FOR THE EMBASSY'S CONSIDERATION, AN EXPANSION OF THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM TO INCLUDE DIRECT EXCHANGES WITH THE USSR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE) (AND ACADEMY OF PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES) AND THE USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. AS EMBASSY AWARE, CURRENT FULBRIGHT LECTURER EXCHANGE, ARRANGED SOLELY THROUGH USSR MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION (MHE), HAS ITS SHORTCOMINGS SINCE THOSE EXCHANGES INVOLVING THE ACADEMY MUST BE CHanneLED THROUGH MHE. THE NEW PROPOSAL WOULD ESTABLISH TWO ADDITIONAL CHANNELS FOR CONDUCTING THESE EXCHANGES AND THEREBY ESTABLISH PARALLEL PROGRAMS WITH THE MHE, THE MOE AND THE ACADEMY.

2. THE ADVANTAGES ARE SEVERAL:

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A) THIS WOULD BRING ALL AFFILIATED INSTITUTES OF MOE AND ACADEMY INTO FULBRIGHT LECTURER EXCHANGE AND CREATE A LARGER POOL OF SOVIET SCHOLARS, AS WELL AS TEACHING INSTITUTES FOR PLACEMENT OF US SCHOLARS;

B) WOULD GIVE MOE AND ACADEMY GREATER INCENTIVE TO

PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM;

C) WOULD HELP BYPASS THE MHE ADMINISTRATIVE BOTTLENECK AND PERHAPS ENCOURAGE SOME COMPETITION AMONG THE THREE SOVIET AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM;

D) ACADEMY INCLUSION WOULD PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE MORE PRESTIGIOUS SOVIET SCHOLARS REQUESTED BY US UNIVERSITIES AND OPEN MANY OF ITS TEACHING/RESEARCH INSTITUTES TO US LECTURERS;

E) MOE PROGRAM WOULD FACILITATE PARTICIPATION IN FULBRIGHT EXCHANGE BY EDUCATION SPECIALISTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. NEW PROCEDURE WOULD REQUIRE EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT TO DEAL WITH THREE SEPARATE SOVIET AGENCIES, RATHER THAN ONE. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, RESULTS ACHIEVED MAY JUSTIFY EXTRA EFFORT.

4. AN INCENTIVE FOR ACADEMY AND MOE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM WOULD BE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AS WELL AS TO LECTURE. WHILE SUCH OPPORTUNITIES ALREADY EXIST UNDER FULBRIGHT PROGRAM, SOVIETS APPARENTLY NOT AWARE THEY EXIST. US HIGHER EDUCATION DELEGATION WHICH VISITED USSR IN APRIL REPORTS THAT SOVIETS ARE UNDER IMPRESSION THAT THEIR LECTURERS IN US ARE REQUIRED TO CARRY TEACHING LOADS OF 30 TO 40 HOURS PER WEEK. IN FACT TEACHING LOADS OF SOVIET LECTURERS IN US RANGE FROM 3 TO 12 HOURS PER WEEK, WITH MOST IN THE 6 TO 9 HOUR RANGE. WHILE EMPHASIS ON FULBRIGHT PROGRAM SHOULD BE ON LECTURING, ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH WOULD ADD INTEREST ON PART OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ON BOTH SIDES.

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5. DURING FIRST TWO YEARS OF FULBRIGHT LECTURER EXCHANGE EACH SIDE HAS EXCHANGED ANNUALLY UP TO 8 LECTURERS FOR ONE SEMESTER, FOR TOTAL OF 28 PARTICIPANTS. BY ADDING ADDITIONAL INSTITUTIONS ON SOVIET SIDE, WE WOULD HOPE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LECTURERS EXCHANGED ANNUALLY TO 20 ON EACH SIDE BY ACADEMIC YEAR 76-77.

6. WE WOULD ALSO HOPE TO ACHIEVE A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN HARD SCIENCES ON ONE HAND AND HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ON THE OTHER, BY PLACING ON THE FORMER A LIMITATION OF NOT MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL PARTICIPANTS ON EACH SIDE. THIS COULD PERHAPS BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE

ACADEMY AND MHE PARTICIPANTS, BUT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY
WITH MOE LECTURERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN

PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES.

7. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH THESE PROGRAMS WITH
MOE AND ACADEMY WITHOUT AMENDING CURRENT EXCHANGES
AGREEMENT OR ITS ANNEX, SINCE NEITHER DESIGNATES MHE AS
EXECUTIVE AGENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE. BOTH THE ANNEX AND
IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS IN ADDITION CLEARLY SPECIFY
THAT LECTURERS MAY BE FROM "UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTI-
TUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING". ALLOCATION OF A SPECIFIC
NUMBER OF LECTURERS EACH YEAR TO MHE, MOE AND ACADEMY
MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

8. DEPARTMENT IS REVIEWING CURRENT PROCEDURES FOR FUNDING

THESE EXCHANGES ON THE US SIDE, AND SEPTTEL WILL FOLLOW.

9. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL
AND SUGGESTIONS ON HOW IT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE
SOVIETS. KISSINGER

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